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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: JUNE 10-14, 2005 (1600 HOURS LOCAL)  
-- TWO PALESTINIANS INJURED IN INTERNAL AL-AQSA MARTYRS  
BRIGADES CLASH IN RAMALLAH

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

1. (SBU) Summary. Two Palestinians were shot and injured during clashes between different al-Aqsa cells by Manasra Square in Ramallah on June 12. The IDF shot and injured a Palestinian youth in Saida village near Tulkarm on June 11, according to Palestinian security sources. UNRWA reported that one Palestinian, injured during a work accident in his home in Gaza City May 29, died of his wounds June 10. In Gaza, UNRWA reported that some 13 Palestinians were injured June 12 in the Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City when an automatic weapon, being used to fire into the air at a wedding party, was accidentally dropped and began firing of its own accord, hitting the guests. End summary.

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West Bank  
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2. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Ten Palestinian suffered from tear gas inhalation during anti-barrier demonstrations near Ariel June 10, according to Palestinian media reports.

-- Injuries: The IDF shot and injured a Palestinian youth in Saida village near Tulkarm on June 11, according to Palestinian security sources.

-- Injuries: Two Palestinians were shot and injured during clashes between different al-Aqsa cells by Manasra Square in Ramallah on June 12, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Arrests: The IDF arrested the father and sister of wanted PIJ activist Luai Sa'adi in Attil village near Tulkarm on June 11, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Arrests: The IDF arrested 10 Palestinians in the West Bank on June 11 in the towns of Nablus and Halhul for allegedly supporting Fatah and Hamas militants, according to Palestinian newspapers.

-- Attacks: Palestinian gunmen fired on IDF outposts near Nablus and Jenin on June 11, according to PA security sources, but there were no injuries.

-- Attacks: Unknown gunmen fired at an Israeli car near Homesh settlement on June 11, according to Israeli radio, but there were no injuries.

-- Attacks: Unknown gunmen fired shots at Kadim settlement near Jenin on June 11, according to Israeli radio, but there were no injuries.

3. (SBU) PA SECURITY ACTIONS:

-- PA security forces moved two arrested PIJ activists (Yasser Badran and Abd al-Rahman Zaghal) from Tulkarm to Jericho.

-- The PA released two PIJ activists arrested in connection with the Stage Club bombing in Tel Aviv in February on June 10 after Interior Minister Nasser Yusif decided that the two were not involved in the attack, according to PA security sources. 11 PIJ members remain jailed in Jericho.

4. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- PA President Abbas appointed William Nassar as undersecretary of the president's office, essentially a deputy to Chief of Staff Rafiq Hussein. Nassar is a veteran

Fatah official from before the PA's creation in 1994.

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Gaza Strip  
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**15. (SBU) ATTACKS:**

-- Deaths: UNRWA reported that one Palestinian, injured during a work accident<sup>8</sup> in his home in Gaza City May 29, died of his wounds June 10.

-- Injury: UNRWA reported that one Palestinian was injured June 13 in an explosion that occurred in the Beach Camp, north of Gaza City. The cause of the blast remains unknown.

-- Injury: UNRWA reported that a woman was injured in an explosion June 12 in Khan Yunis. The cause of the blast remains unknown.

-- Injuries: UNRWA reported that some 13 Palestinians were injured June 12 in the Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City when an automatic weapon, being used to fire into the air at a wedding party, was accidentally dropped and began firing of its own accord, hitting the guests.

-- Injuries: UNRWA reported that two Palestinians were injured June 11 in Jabaliya camp when militants affiliated with the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) clashed with PSO forces. One PSO officer was kidnapped and held for several hours; members of the kidnapped man's family shut down the streets and burned tires. The man was released subsequently and the roads into town were re-opened (see &PA Security Forces<sup>8</sup>).

-- Catch-up item: Injury: UNRWA reported that a 14-year-old youth received two gunshot wounds in his back June 9 in Rafah during an exchange of fire between Palestinian militants and IDF soldiers on the outskirts of Morag settlement.

-- Mortars/Rockets: The IDF reported that Palestinian militants fired a total of 13 mortar shells and eight shooting attacks at IDF and Israeli settler targets throughout the Gaza Strip June 10-14

-- Explosions: The IDF reported that PA security forces found and safely deactivated an explosive device near the Erez Crossing June 13.

-- Explosions: Two explosive devices were detonated near IDF outposts June 10, one near Kfar Darom and the other near Karni Crossing.

**16. (SBU) PALESTINIAN SECURITY FORCES:**

-- On June 13, Palestinian sources reported that militants opened fire at the home of Preventive Security chief Rashid Abu Shbak. The attack followed an attempt earlier in the day by PSO officers to arrest two Hamas militants. Mediators intervened and the situation calmed down after the two Hamas members were released, according to UNRWA.

-- In the aftermath of clashes June 9-10 between Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) militants and Preventive Security Forces (see June 10 SitRep), unknown gunmen attacked the home of Preventive Security chief Rashid Abu Shbak the evening of June 10 with RPGs, hand grenades and small weapons fire, while PRC militants and PSO forces clashed again in Gaza City. Sporadic clashes occurred throughout June 11 and APCs manned by PA security personnel remained on the street outside PSO headquarters until June 13. PRC members kidnapped a PSO officer in Jabaliya Camp June 11, injuring two bystanders (see Injuries<sup>8</sup>). Several hundred members of the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades demonstrated outside PSO headquarters June 11 in support of the Preventive Security Forces.

-- UNRWA reported that on June 10 PA security forces, working in coordination with the IDF, located and destroyed two tunnels in Rafah used for smuggling.

**17. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:**

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open June 11-13, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open June 10-11, but was closed for an Israeli holiday June 12-13. On June 10, 2,062 laborers and 278 merchants crossed into Israel. On June 11, 249 laborers and 56 merchants crossed.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was closed June 10-13.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed June 11-13, but re-opened June 14 for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was open June 11-12, but closed June 13 for an Israeli holiday.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures June 11-14.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed June 11-14. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi, except males aged 16-30.

**18. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:**

-- UNRWA reported that approximately 50 families in the Khan Yunis refugee camp have been waging a sit-down strike at UNRWA's distribution center in the camp for approximately five days. The families, all participants in the UNRWA re-housing program, wish to have their houses built in Toufah vice Khan Yunis, despite the unavailability of land in Toufah. The situation is tense, as the families have threatened violence if their demand is not met, according to UNRWA. The strike continued as of midday, June 14.

-- The ICRC reported that some 1,000 Palestinians staged a sit-down strike and demonstration outside of ICRC headquarters in Gaza City June 13, demanding the release of Palestinians prisoners being held in Israeli jails and the head of PFLP in particular.

-- Israeli media reported that the PA carried out the death sentence on four Palestinian criminals, all convicted of murder, June 12 in Gaza City. According to media reports, the PA has announced that executions are planned for some 12 additional convicted criminals.

PEARCE